



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAM
www.voc.nv.gov

May 12, 2009

To: Senator Terry Care, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Bryan Nix, VOCP Coordinator

Re: VOCP Statement in Support of **AB 283**

Bill Sponsor: Assemblyman Mark Manendo

Committee Hearing Date:

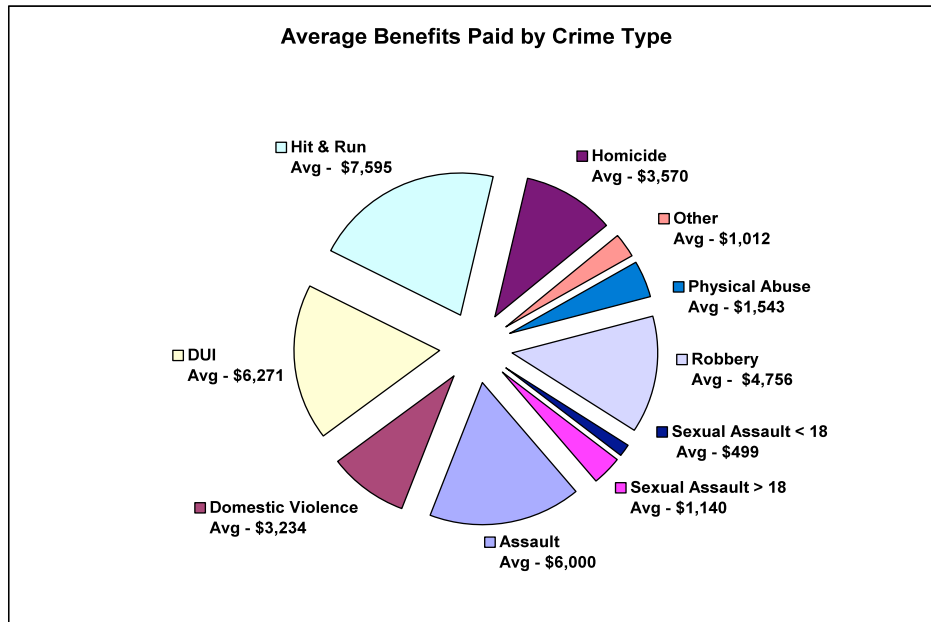
AB 283 raises the cap on VOCP claims from \$50,000 to \$100,000 or \$150,000 upon approval of the Board of Examiners.

Raising the statutory cap to up to \$150,000 will give the Board of Examiners the flexibility to establish programs to assist victims of crimes resulting in catastrophic injuries such as paraplegia or quadriplegia, loss of multiple limbs, blindness etc. The current legislative cap of \$50,000 is inadequate to address the needs of victims of catastrophic injuries.

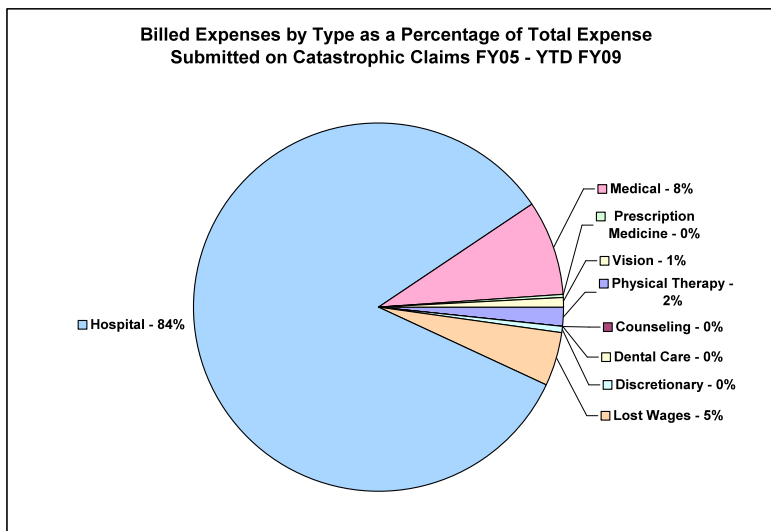
The expected number of claims that would meet the definition of catastrophic injury is very small. The VOCP history shows 1.6 claims per year meet the criteria discussed here. The VOCP is financially equipped to handle such claims and could easily handle many more than that, without impacting a single claim or benefit payment to any other victims.

The following chart shows the average claim cost for all applications by crime type. Most claims are resolved for significantly less than the claim cap.

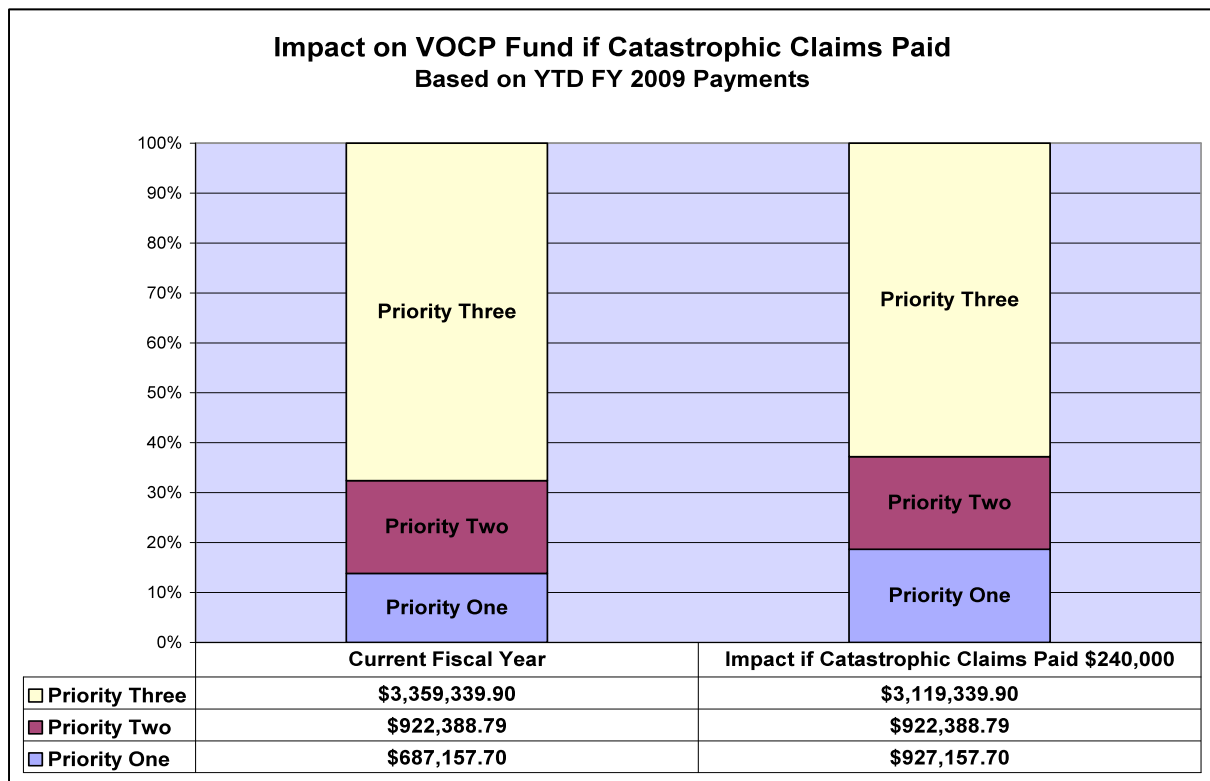
This chart shows that the highest claim costs occur in crimes involving vehicles such as DUI and Hit and Run, which are generally DUI related.



Due to the nature of these claims the medical bills are generally overwhelming, often leaving little or nothing left to assist the victim with other needs. As the following chart shows the medical bills can eat up the entire claim before other benefits can be paid.



Allowing catastrophic injury claims to be paid up to \$150,000 will have no impact on the VOCP fund, or any victim with an approved claim. The policies adopted by the BOE allow for the absorption of additional claims and expenses in catastrophic injury claims, and in all other claims. The following chart shows how the claim expenses from catastrophic injury claims would be paid within existing budgeted funds.



Adoption of AB 283 would allow the VOCP to pay up to \$100,000 in victim claims and up to \$150,000 upon approval of the BOE after a determination that VOCP funding is adequate to pay the additional claim costs. This additional authority will allow the VOCP to better assist victims of catastrophic injuries.

Conclusion

In summary the VOCP supports raising the statutory cap on victim of crime claims. This will allow the VOCP to establish programs to assist grievously injured victims of DUI and other crimes. The financial impact of such programs is anticipated to be minimal on the VOCP, but significant in its impact on individual victims suffering catastrophic injuries. The Board of Examiners provides substantial oversight of the VOCP and is equipped to adopt policies to implement programs and review the implementation and effectiveness of those policies and programs. The VOCP encourages the adoption of AB 283.